

newly attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, without at that time also attaining the irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, they become once-returners.

Having attained the result of once-returners, Gradual-Attainers proceed by temporarily or irrevocably eliminating the seventh and eighth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, either with mundane uninterrupted paths (of the preparatory stage of the first concentration) or with any of the first six or seven supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation, respectively.

Thereafter, in order to attain the result of non-returner, Gradual-Attainers may cultivate a mundane uninterrupted path (of the preparatory stage of the first concentration) and use it to temporarily remove the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. Or they may cultivate any of the first eight types of supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation and use any of those to irrevocably eliminate the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. Either way, the moment Gradual-Attainers newly attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, without at that time also attaining the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, they become non-returners. Lastly, in order to become foe-destroyers, Gradual-Attainers cultivate the ninth (big-big) uninterrupted path of the path of meditation, i.e. the *Vajra-like Stabilization*, which is the direct antidote to the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm as well as to the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of each of the eight levels of the Form and Formless Realms.

The moment they attain the cessation of those afflictions, Serial Attainers achieve the result of foe-destroyer.

Gradual-Attainers who attain the result of stream-enterer	Gradual-Attainers who attain the result of once-returner	Gradual-Attainers who attain the result of non-returner	Gradual-Attainers who attain the result of foe-destroyer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They attain the irrevocable cessation of the three fetters, without having temporarily eliminated the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing ▪ They do not attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm <u>before</u> attaining the irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of <i>supramundane</i> innate afflictions of the Desire Realm ▪ They attain neither the temporary nor the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm ▪ They do not attain the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They attain the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and of the ninth type of innate afflictions of the each of the eight levels of the Form and Formless Realms

Gradual-Eliminators

Gradual-Eliminators (*spang bya rim gyis pa*) are Hinayana Aryas who (like Gradual-Attainers) serially or sequentially eliminate the different types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and their supramundane counterparts. This means that they attain the temporary cessation of the first type of *mundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm before they attain the irrevocable cessation of the first type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. They attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the second type of *mundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm before they attain the irrevocable cessation of the second type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, and so forth.

Therefore, they temporarily or irrevocably eliminate the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm before irrevocably eliminating the sixth type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. Likewise, they temporarily or irrevocably eliminate the ninth type of mundane innate

afflictions of the Desire Realm before irrevocably eliminating the ninth type of *supramundane* innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

However, whoever is a Gradual-Eliminator does not necessarily have to attain all four results because whoever is a Gradual-Eliminator is not necessarily a Gradual-Attainer. Whoever is a Gradual-Eliminator is not necessarily a Gradual-Attainer, because a Leaper is a Gradual-Eliminator but not a Gradual-Attainer. Yet whoever is a Gradual-Attainer is necessarily a Gradual Eliminator. Therefore, some Gradual-Eliminators (Gradual-Attainers) attain all four results, some (the first type of Leapers) do not attain the result of stream-enterer, and some (the second type of Leapers) do not attain the results of stream-enterer and once-returner.

This completes the presentation of the four results. Next follows a detailed explanation of the four approachers and the four abiders. These eight are explained in pairs, starting with approachers to the result of stream enterer, then abiders in the result of stream-enterer, approachers to the result of once-returner, and so forth:

1. Approachers to the result of stream-enterer
2. Abiders in the result of stream-enterer
3. Approachers to the result once-returner
4. Abiders in the result of once-returner
5. Approachers to the result of non-returner
6. Abiders in the result of non-returner
7. Approachers to the result of foe-destroyer
8. Abiders in the result of foe-destroyer

Together with the explanation of the eight approachers and abiders, comes a presentation of different types of Sangha which are the subdivisions of the approachers and abiders.

APPROACHERS TO THE RESULT OF STREAM-ENTERER

Approachers to the result of stream-enterer (*rgyun zhugs zhugs pa*) refer to Hinayana Aryas who did not temporarily eliminate the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing and who abide on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing (which immediately precedes the path of release that marks the attainment of the result of stream-enterer).

Since the path of release that marks the attainment of the result of stream-enterer is the path of release of the Hinayana path of seeing which attains the irrevocable cessation of the three fetters (intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions), the uninterrupted path that immediately precedes that path of release is the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing that eliminates the three fetters. Therefore, *approachers to the result of stream-enterer* refer to Hinayana Aryas who abide on the uninterrupted path that irrevocably eliminates the three fetters (intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions).

From the perspective of their mental faculty, approachers to the result of stream-enterer can be classified in two categories:

- 1) Approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of faith
- 2) Approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of Dharma

1) Approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of faith

In general, followers of faith (*dad pa'i rjes 'brang*) are practitioners who are of weak mental faculty, for they rely less on reasoning and more on Buddhist scriptures.

In addition, they depend more on a teacher's instructions to gain realization of the ultimate nature of phenomena. Therefore, *approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of faith* are Hinayana Aryas of weak mental faculty who are abiding on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing.

2) Approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of Dharma

In general, followers of Dharma (*chos kyi rjes 'brang*) are of sharp mental faculty because they rely less on Buddhist scriptures and more on reasoning. They are also less dependent on instructions by a teacher in order to realize the ultimate nature of phenomena. Thus, *approachers to the result of stream-enterer who are followers of Dharma* are Hinayana Aryas of sharp mental faculty who are abiding on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing.

